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WITH THE **CORN BORER**

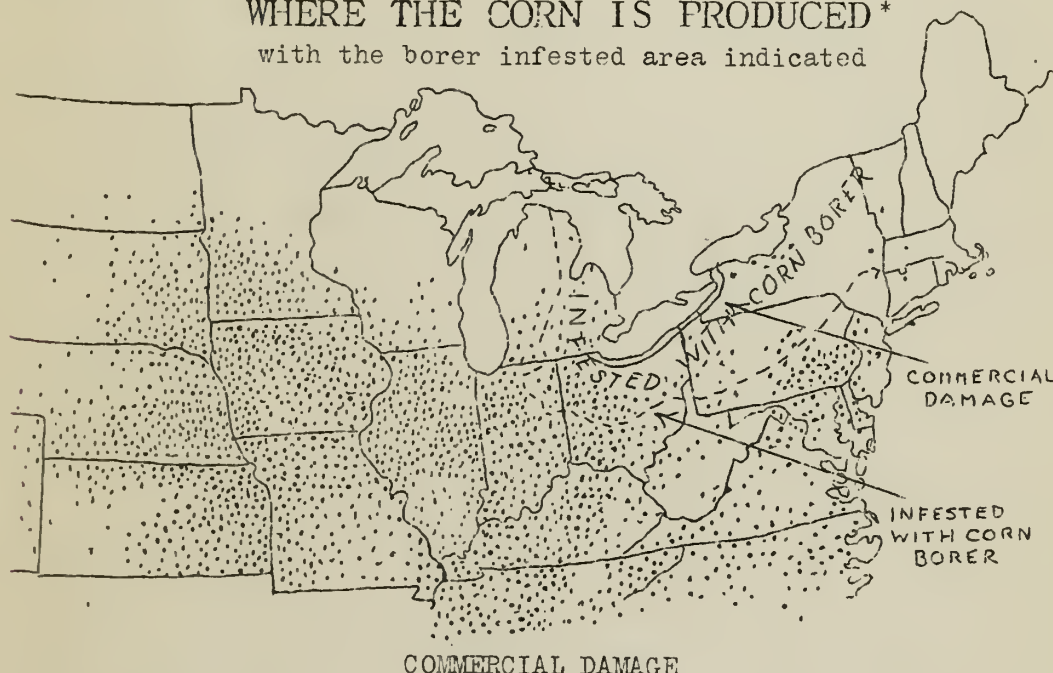
Issued in the interest of corn-borer control conducted by the United States Department of Agriculture in cooperation with the State departments of agriculture and State agricultural colleges in New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, and Indiana.

No. 29

Washington, D. C.

February 25, 1928

WHERE THE CORN IS PRODUCED* with the borer infested area indicated



COMMERCIAL DAMAGE

The corn borer has reached sufficient numbers in the United States to produce some commercial damage in an occasional field in a very narrow strip around Lake Erie, also areas in eastern New York and eastern Massachusetts.

Conditions which seem to govern the heavy infestation and loss are (1) the length of time the borer has been established in the region, (2) an abundance of food and favorable weather conditions, (3) methods of farming. In regions where the stalks are not disposed of so as to kill the wintering borers the infestation becomes more intense.

Sweet corn, because of its early development and small size of stalk, seems to be the first to suffer. However, losses have also been felt in field corn in Ohio and Michigan.

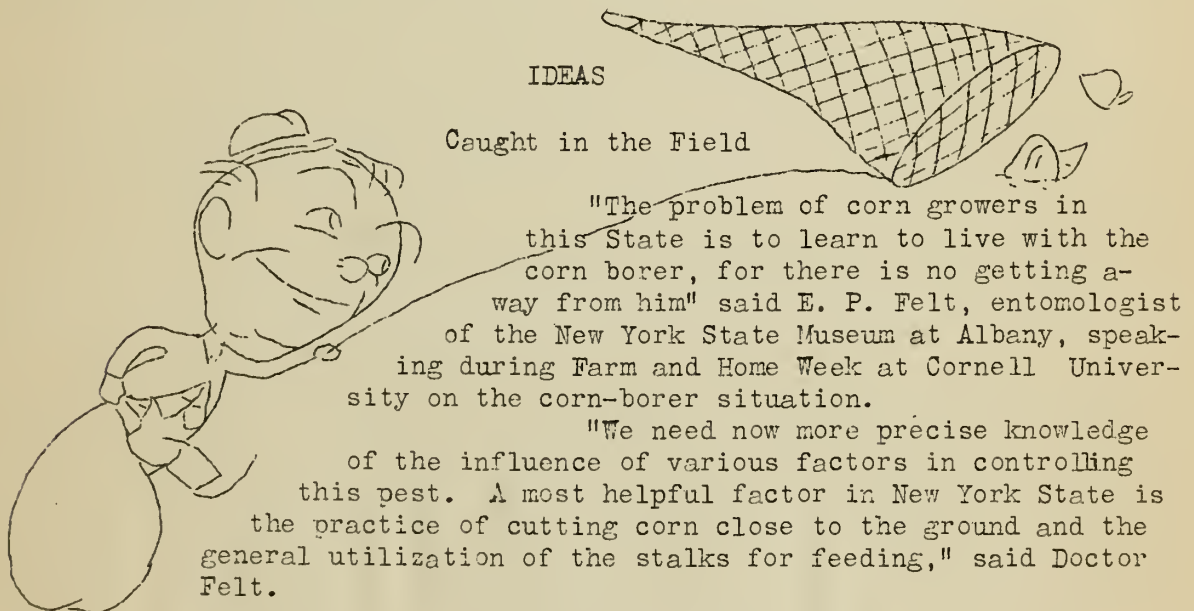
* Dots represent the approximate amount of corn produced in the area.

REGULATIONS IN INDIANA

The corn-borer quarantine now includes 16 counties in north-eastern Indiana, according to the new quarantine line established under the direction of Frank M. Wallace, State entomologist cooperating with the Federal authorities. All main-traveled roads leading out of this area will be patrolled when green corn is placed on the market some time next July.

Last year all main-traveled roads were patrolled 24 hours a day by guards sworn in as deputy entomologists, with full police power to enforce their orders. Approximately 80 men were engaged in this work during the green-corn stage, and more than 500,000 automobiles were stopped. These men were paid by the State, but this year the Federal Government plans to take over the quarantine lines.

Because of the care with which the new line was formed it will require but few, if any, more guards than were used last year.



"The corn borer exhibit truck has been especially well received in Indiana" reports L. E. Hoffman, extension leader, corn borer control. "We have this truck scheduled until March 7, and I think we will make up an additional schedule which will run it up until March 24. Already more than 16,018 people have viewed the exhibit.

Exhibit trucks were built and equipped at Toledo corn-borer control headquarters and have been operated in the infested States under the direction of the extension service.

The European corn borer and its parasites will form a part of the entomological exhibit arranged by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture to be held in Harrisburg, February 29 to March 3.





The Educational Program

T.H. Parks, State leader, corn-borer work, has made an outline of the work to be done during the spring by Ohio educational workers and sent a copy to county agents in the infested area. Because of shortage of space only a part of it can be given.

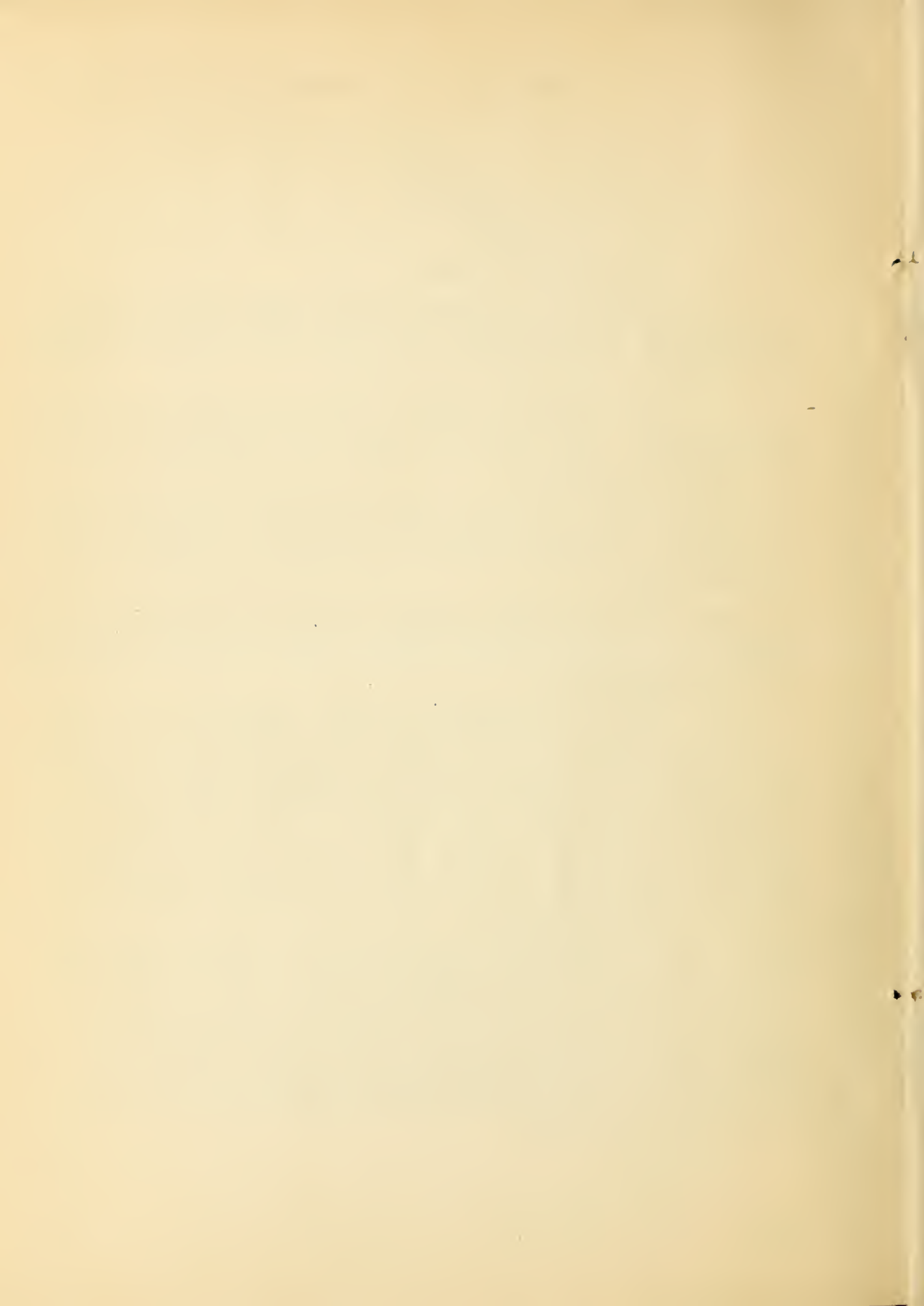
"The engineers will hold the center of the stage during the spring clean-up. The need for better plowing and stalk-removal work will soon be upon us. These will take the form of demonstrations or contests, as Mr. Barden will propose.

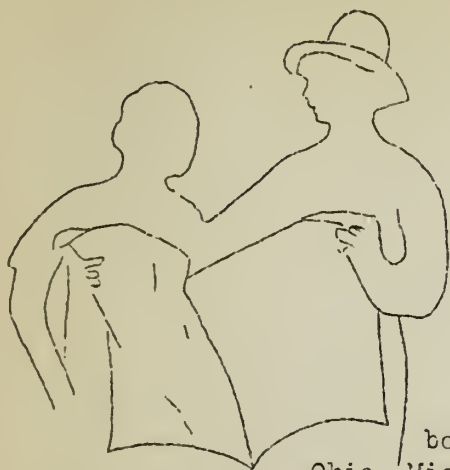
"We believe that better plowing should be stressed as such and let corn-borer destruction be only a part of it. Costs of such work must be reduced over last year and hand picking must be largely eliminated if we are to continue to grow corn profitably in competition with uninfested States.

"We do not believe it will be necessary to hold a large number of special meetings to create enthusiasm for clean-up. We have gone through one year of that, and the need for clean-up must now be accepted. As rapidly as new methods of meeting this need arrive, we must tell about them or demonstrate them.

"Until the borer promises to take 14 bushels per acre from the yield, we must not advocate late planting. Planting as late as June 10 would be necessary to prevent damage, and this will automatically reduce the yield by that amount, besides increasing the danger of frost damage in the fall. Perhaps we should discourage very early planting in lake-shore counties, but planting as late as June is dangerous and unnecessary to advocate until we have proved that clean-up of stalks and stubble will not prevent commercial loss. Seasons favoring late-maturing corn, as was enjoyed in 1927, do not come every year. Where late planting is unavoidable, the use of fertilizers would be encouraged to hasten the growth and maturity.

"The specialists have largely confined their efforts this winter to the area first found infested in 1927. We believe this area will be ready for enforcement regulations by next fall. The older infested area, which is now under regulations, must receive help from agents and specialists, who will give information, demonstrate new methods as fast as these appear, and cooperate with the county supervisors. These we hope will be appointed soon enough to explain the control program if again undertaken and the mechanical equipment that may or may not be available to the various counties before the control forces commence operations."





"LISTEN TO THIS"

The OHIO FARMER, in the issue of February 4, makes the following editorial comment on Ohio and the corn borer:

"First, we must grant that there is such a thing as the European corn borer. We have seen too many of them in Ohio, Michigan, and Ontario, and have the expert testimony of too many entomologists to doubt this. Second, we must grant that the insect is possessed of very great possibilities of destruction. We do not have to take the word of any entomologist for this. We have seen the destruction it can cause with our own eyes in the presence of competent witnesses.

"The third thing that we must grant is that getting excited over its presence or blindly denying its existence will not aid us in learning to live with it. Which leads us to our fourth conclusion, which is that with our present knowledge of the insect and its possibilities we will never be able to eradicate it, but that we can and will learn to live with it. Perhaps a fifth point should be added, and that is that it will be many years before Ohio's corn crop is seriously impaired by the activities of the corn borer.

"With these five indisputable points in mind what is the best way to face the future? Let us keep our presence of mind and learn all we can about the insect and methods of its control. That is why the Government should be financed and instructed by the present Congress to pursue actively every avenue of research and at the same time to carry on as vigorous a campaign of education as is humanly possible.

"Let us study every suggested control method and see how they will fit into our farm practices so as to keep the population and damage of the European corn borer down to a minimum."

